



## CROWN OFFICE & PROCURATOR FISCAL SERVICE

SCOTLAND'S PROSECUTION SERVICE

### **Victim's Rights - How do I get my property back?**

Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) and Police Scotland are committed to ensuring that the victims' of crime only have property taken from them for use as evidence when it is essential to do so in order to prove a criminal offence. Seized property will be held securely until such times as proceedings are concluded. During this time, if required, property may be forensically tested.

Forensic testing means property may be treated with chemical agents which can leave a residue on your property. In extreme instances this may mean the property cannot be returned safely to you, however you will receive a full explanation when this is the case.

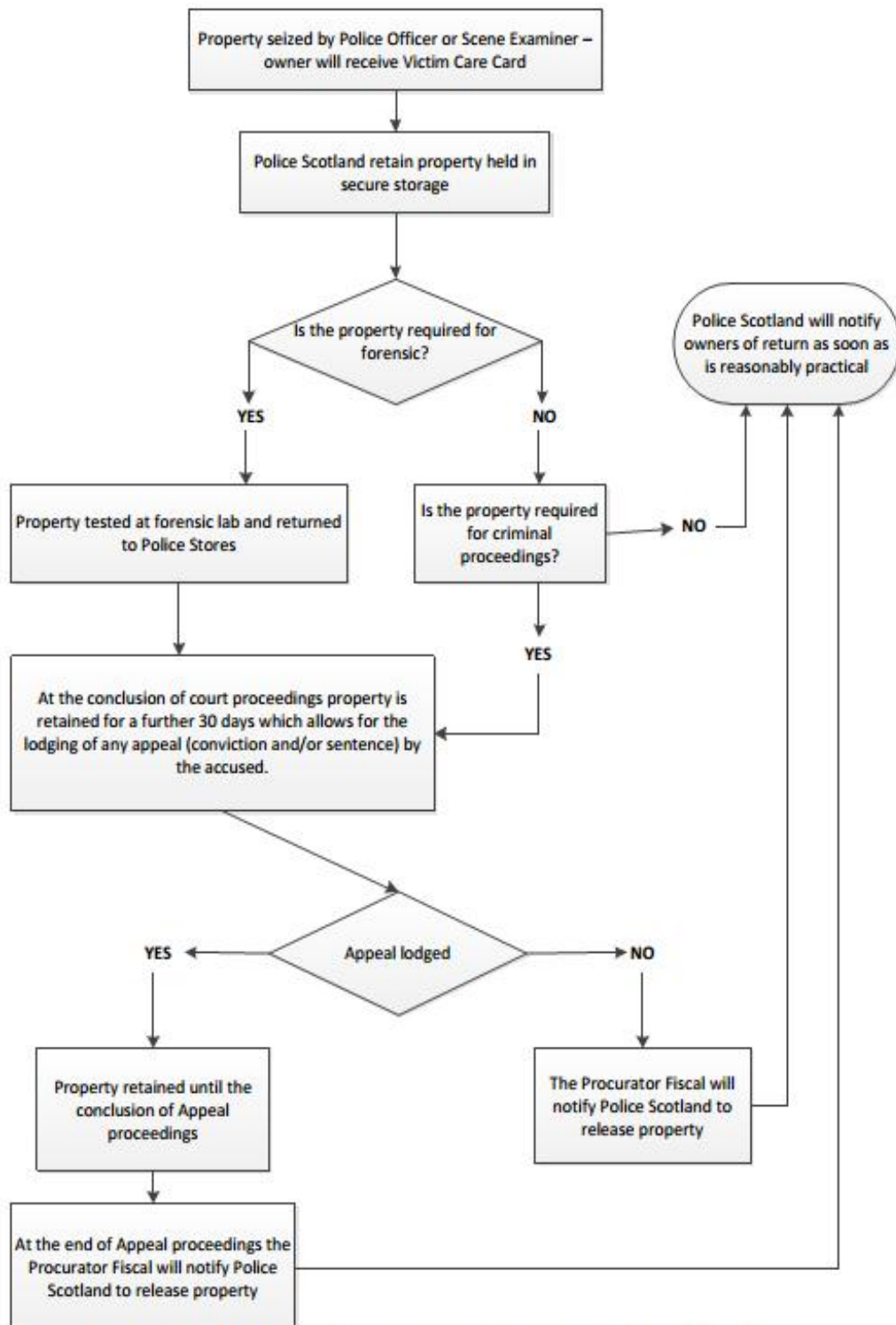
Your property will be held securely and any movement will be tracked through Criminal Justice recording systems. It will be viewed and handled only by staff from Police Scotland, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service and Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service who have a direct role in maintaining the chain of evidence.

The Procurator Fiscal will notify Police Scotland when property can be returned to the victims of crime; at this point you will be given directions in writing from Police Scotland that will enable you to collect them from a convenient place.

If you have any questions about the status of your property whilst it is in our possession these should be directed to your investigating officer as provided on your Victim Care Card.

## VICTIMS RIGHTS

Broad Principles – Return of productions where prosecution has taken place



These are broad principles. The Crown and Police Scotland are currently reviewing the practices and procedures regarding the storage, retention and return of items seized during a criminal or deaths investigation. Further guidance will be published on completion of this work.